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BROWNHILLS  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



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# Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Chief Sanitary Inspector,

ON THE WORK OF THE

Public Health Services,

1947



Chairman of Health Committee:  
Councillor Dr. F. R. ROBERTS.

Chairman of the Council:  
Councillor S. T. BREEZE, J.P.

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## STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health (Part-time):

DR. R. G. BRADFORD M.D., M.M.S.A.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

JOHN WILSON, M.R.San.I. M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.,  
Certificate of R.S.I. as Inspector of Meat  
and Other Foods.

Certificate of R.S.I. as Smoke Inspector.

Certificate of R.S.I. in Sanitary Science as  
applied to Buildings and Public Works.

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Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

(1) HARRY BEELEY, M.S.I.A.

(Resigned February, 1947).

(2) V. F. PENN, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.

(From 13th October, 1947).

(3) J. E. FAULKNER, M.S.I.A.

(From 6th October, 1947)

Clerks:

EAN MARKLEW (H.M. Forces).

GEOFFREY CROWE (H.M. Forces).

MAISIE COLLINGWOOD (Temporary).

Handyman:

S. WRIGHT.

Rodent Operative:

E. MARKLEW.

## ***Appreciation of Dr. R. G. Bradford.***

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This is the thirty-seventh Annual Report presented by Dr. R. G. Bradford. As he is about to retire, it will be his last Annual Report.

At the express desire of the Brownhills Urban District Council, I take the greatest of pleasure in placing on record the Council's warm appreciation of Dr. Bradford's work in the district, both as Medical Officer of Health and as General Practitioner. He has at all times performed his official duties in a most courteous and efficient manner, with the well-being of the district always at heart. His devotion to his work amongst his patients is too well known to require any words from me, but he will know that the good wishes of the entire community will follow him into his retirement.

On behalf of the Council, his colleagues, and of myself personally, I express the earnest hope that he, along with Mrs. Bradford, may enjoy a long and pleasant eventide.

SAMUEL T. BREEZE, Chairman of the Council.

BROWNHILLS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

### 1947

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Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
Brownhills.

*To the Chairman and Members of  
Brownhills Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Owing to my retirement as Medical Officer of Health for this district, this, my report for 1947, will be my last report. My first report to your Council was in 1911. This covers a period of 37 years.

Changes have been many, especially have these changes affected the Public Health Services.

Chief among these changes I should place the following, which appear to me the most important and the most beneficial to our district:—

- (1) The attempt now being made to provide adequate housing accommodation for the people.
- (2) The realisation that what were regarded as amenities in former years must now be regarded as necessities.

The Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics have done excellent service. I would include with these services the School Medical Service. All these services are, of course, under the County, but locally their influence and potentialities

are so great, and so intimately connected with the welfare of our district that we, as a Council, must regard them with the closest interest.

These are all constructive policies directed to the improvement of health, and their influence on the parents and especially the mothers has been very good. The increased interest shown and the knowledge gained by the mothers in the different methods of infant feeding, the provision of the necessary artificial foods and of vitamins at the Centres, combined with the opportunities for the interchange of knowledge, have all made their contribution towards improvement.

The Birth Rate has diminished considerably since those earlier years. In 1911 it was 32 per thousand of the population. This year it is 24.4 per thousand, but to counteract that the Infantile Mortality Rate has been reduced considerably. This year it is 30.8 per thousand live births. The average for the preceding ten years was 63.2. It may be that quality balances quantity.

The good result of Diphtheria Immunisation is now showing itself. No case of Diphtheria was reported during the year and we have had no deaths since 1944. Only two cases were notified last year.

The Death Rate per thousand of population is 8.9. That for England and Wales is 12.

All these good results, be it understood, are due to a cumulative effect. We are reaping the benefit of work done in many preceeding years and the results are not the spontaneous effect of this year or even last year.

Forty-five new houses were erected during the year. I had hopes that this number would be greater. The number of inhabited houses is 5,147. This gives an average distribution of 4.1 persons to each house. The district, however, being a mining district, does not lend itself to an equal distribution and there are many cases of overcrowding. Moreover, a good many houses are due for demolition, especially in certain parts of the district. In this connection I would like to impress upon members of the Council the duty—at least in my opinion—they have to assist the Sanitary Department in the provision of suitable accommodation for Tuberculous patients.



I would remind the Housing Committee that so many houses were allotted to the Sanitary Department for this purpose in former years. This privilege has, in the last few years, been taken from the Sanitary Department. When the housing situation is somewhat easier I hope that this privilege will again be restored to the Sanitary Department. No member of the Housing Committee can possibly approach a problem of this kind with the same intimate knowledge as the Medical Officer attending the case, or the Medical Officer of Health, who is in contact both with the patient and the Medical Attendant. Nor can the mere description of the conditions carry with it sufficient emphasis to convince the Housing Committee of the great dangers of inadequate facilities for isolation.

The following is a summary of the houses built during 1947:—

Prefabricated Bungalows by Local Authority. ...	0
By Private Enterprise ... ..	6
Permanent Houses by Local Authority ... ..	39
	—
Total ... ..	45
	—

The area of the district is 6,307 acres. The rateable value is £64,812. The sum represented by a penny rate is £240. The population is 21,270, giving a population per acre of 3.35.

During the year we have had considerable and unavoidable trouble with the contamination of our water supply in certain parts of our district through mining subsidence. Fortunately recent analyses show that at least for the present the trouble has been overcome. The Chief Sanitary Inspector will, however, go into that matter in greater detail.

Mr. A. Wikeley, M.I.Mun.E., Engineer and Surveyor to the Council, has kindly submitted the following statement for inclusion in the report:—

#### “ TOWN PLANNING.

As I visualised last year the Town and Country Planning Bill which has now become law has imposed a great responsibility and burden upon the Local Authority.

It is quite obvious that the Town & Country Planning Act, 1947, is the outcome of the general social progress which has been made during the present century. Certain responsibilities now pass to the County Council and it is incumbent upon them under the Act to prepare a development plan for the whole of the County and so far as the Brownhills Urban District is concerned there is a statutory obligation on the County Council to consult with the Local Authority. In the meantime it will be in the interests of everybody for the Council to accept and appreciate their responsibilities as an Authority to whom powers under Part III of the Act have been delegated.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Once again I am pleased to report that the number of Dust Bins has increased during the year and I am sure that, with the Chief Sanitary Inspector, I look forward to the day when Dust Bins will be provided for all premises and the unhealthy Ashpits cleared away. The Council have already taken preliminary steps with a view to taking action in the provision of controlled tipping.

#### SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Several of the minor repairs which I said last year were necessary at the Norton Canes Disposal Works have been carried out and the whole of the property painted with the result that it once more looks reasonably neat and tidy. The effluent from the works continues to be highly satisfactory. Several works have been carried out at the Walsall Wood Disposal Works and it is anticipated that further reconstruction will take place at an early date, but in this respect the Council will have to bear in mind, unfortunately, that all work carried out at Walsall Wood may be rendered abortive at a very early date due to the continued subsidence of the ground.

#### SEWERAGE.

Since writing the contribution to last year's report I have prepared a comprehensive report on the Sewerage and Sewage Disposal of the Urban District which has been presented to and accepted by the Ministry of Health. Arising out of this the Ministry have agreed to remedial works being carried out to the value of at least £20,000. It is rather ironical that I made reference to the fact that a major fracture of the



gravity sewer and rising main at Clayhanger would have disastrous results as very soon after I had written those words a major fracture did occur and as I forecast the results brought about conditions which most certainly do not help the inhabitants of the Urban District and have led to other complications of which the Council are fully aware. I am happy to report, however, that this major fracture has been dealt with and other work is proceeding and, also, it is hoped in the very near future to carry out a preliminary cleaning of the Fordbrook."

There are three Nursing Associations in the district, to each of which the Council contributes £50 for Nursing and attention to certain types of cases.

Bacteriological and Clinical examinations are done at the County Laboratory, Stafford.

The following examinations were made during 1947:—

Sputum for Tubercle Bacillus, 13 tests; 10 were negative, 3 were positive.

Swabs examined for Diphtheria, 13, all of which were negative.

Two specimens of fæces were examined for the Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Group; both were negative.

Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Walsall Hospitals are available for surgical, eye, ear throat and skin care.

Hammerwich Cottage Hospital serves a considerable part of the district. Here the services of a Birmingham Surgeon and Physician and a Gynæcologist are available.

The Council is a constituent authority of the Mid-Staffordshire Joint Hospital Board. Twelve patients were admitted to Wissage Isolation Hospital and one to Cheslyn Hay Isolation Hospital.

The Ambulance service for the district is very satisfactory, although an increase in the number of vehicles and consequently of staff is essential, and the County Council under the National Health Service Act have decided that such an increase may be made.

## BIRTHS, 1947.

### Live Births—

			Male.		Female.		Total.
Legitimate	...	...	260	...	245	...	505
Illegitimate	...	...	9	...	6	...	15
Total							520

### Still Births—

Legitimate	...	...	6	...	5	...	11
Illegitimate	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
Total							11

The total number of 520 Births gives a Birth Rate of 24.4 per thousand of the population.

Still Births numbered 11, none of which was illegitimate. This gives a Still Birth Rate of 0.51 per thousand of the population. For England and Wales the rate is 0.50. For 126 Great Towns and London it is 0.62 and for the 148 smaller towns (25,000 to 50,000 population at 1931 census) it is 0.54.

Of the total legitimate births, 260 were males and 245 females; 15 births were illegitimate.

## DEATHS, 1947.

Deaths numbered 190 — 93 Males and 97 Females. There were no deaths from Puerperal Causes.

This shows a Death Rate of 8.9 per thousand of the population.

The rate for England and Wales is 12.0.

The Infantile Mortality Rate per thousand live births is ... 30.8

Deaths of Legitimate Infants per thousand Legitimate Live Births is ... 31.7

There are no Illegitimate Deaths recorded.

Deaths from Measles ... Nil.

Deaths resulting from Whooping Cough ... Nil.

Deaths resulting from Diarrhoea under 2 years) ... 3

The number of Deaths for 1947 and the two previous years is given in the following table:—

## DEATHS.

Cause	Male	Female	1947 Total	1946	1945
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever .. .. .	2	—	2	—	—
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough.. .. .	—	—	—	3	1
Diphtheria .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .. ..	4	4	8	9	7
Other Forms of Tuberculosis .. .. .	2	2	4	2	—
Syphilitic Diseases .. .. .	1	—	1	—	—
Influenza .. .. .	1	—	1	4	2
Measles .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-Encephalitis..	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of Buccal cavity, Oesophagus and Uterus .. .. .	2	1	3	1	—
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum .. .. .	2	2	4	5	4
Cancer of Breast .. .. .	—	2	2	4	3
Cancer of other sites .. .. .	9	10	19	17	13
Diabetes .. .. .	—	—	—	1	1
Intracranial vascular diseases .. .. .	5	9	14	28	18
Heart Diseases .. .. .	26	28	54	67	50
Other diseases of circulatory system .. ..	3	1	4	4	2
Bronchitis .. .. .	7	5	12	17	18
Pneumonia.. .. .	1	4	5	10	14
Other respiratory diseases .. .. .	1	—	1	3	3
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum .. .. .	—	—	—	2	3
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) .. .. .	1	2	3	1	3
Appendicitis .. .. .	—	—	—	1	—
Other digestive diseases .. .. .	—	2	2	4	6
Nephritis .. .. .	2	2	4	3	5
Puerperal and Post-abortive sepsis .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other Maternal causes .. .. .	—	—	—	—	2
Premature Birth .. .. .	2	3	5	5	7
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries ..	3	4	7	5	6
Suicide .. .. .	1	2	3	—	—
Road Traffic Accidents .. .. .	1	3	4	3	5
Other violent causes .. .. .	1	1	2	4	9
All other causes .. .. .	16	10	26	18	21
All causes ..	93	97	190	221	203

## DEATHS — AGE DISTRIBUTION.

Under 1 year	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	Over 70	Total
16	4	2	1	2	5	6	8	17	34	85	190

Under one year there were 16 deaths.

63% of the deaths occurred in persons over 60 years.

37% were under 60 years.

The cause of Death under the various headings show little variation from previous years, with the exception of respiratory diseases which show a marked improvement.

There were no deaths from puerperal or post-abortive sepsis.

## DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

	Under 1 month	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-9	9-12	Total
Premature Birth ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Congenital Debility and Marasmus ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Suprarenal Hæmorrhage ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Tubercular Meningitis..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Acute Gastro-Enteritis..	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
Pulmonary Collapse ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
									16

## INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS.

Year.	Number.	Rate.
1936 ...	25	69.4
1937 ...	31	85.0
1938 ...	27	75.6
1939 ...	16	40.6
1940 ...	17	40.6
1941 ...	21	53.1
1942 ...	27	62.0
1943 ...	26	62.3
1944 ...	28	60.3
1945 ...	31	83.5
1946 ...	19	41.9

The number of Deaths from Premature Birth, Congenital Debility and Marasmus was 8.

This year's Infantile Mortality Rate is the lowest ever recorded, the previous lowest being 56.3 in 1929 and 58.6 in 1931. 30.8 is the figure for this year.

The following Table is inserted for comparison :

Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1947. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and great towns including London	148 smaller towns (Resident pop. 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 census)	London Adm. County	Brownhills
Rates per 1,000 Civilian population					
Births:—					
Live Births ..	20.5 *	23.3	22.2	22.7	24.4
Still Births ..	0.50 *	0.62	0.54	0.49	0.51
Deaths:—					
All causes ..	12.0 *	13.0	11.9	12.8	8.9
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough ..	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.00
Diphtheria ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Influenza ..	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.04
Smallpox ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Measles ..	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
Notifications:—					
Typhoid Fever ..	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.09
Scarlet Fever ..	1.37	1.54	1.37	1.31	1.6
Whooping Cough ..	2.22	2.41	2.02	2.80	1.9
Diphtheria ..	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14	0.00
Erysipelas ..	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22	0.3
Smallpox ..	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Measles ..	9.41	9.13	9.58	5.29	17.7
Pneumonia ..	0.79	0.89	0.68	0.64	1.5

A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths

\* Rates per 1,000 total population.

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and great towns including London	148 smaller towns (Resident pop. 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 census)	London Adm. County	Brownhills
Deaths:—	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
All cases under 1 year of age.. ..	41 †	47	36	37	30.8
Enteritis and Diarr- hoea under 2 years of age .. ..	5.8	8.0	3.7	4.8	5.7
Notifications:—	Rates per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births				
Puerperal Fever } Puerperal Pyrexia }	7.16	8.99	6.72	{ 1.21 6.94 ‡	0.00
† Per 1,000 related births.		‡ Including Puerperal Fever.			

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales:—

	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.	Rates per million women aged 15-44
No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis ...	0.10	9
No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis ...	0.06	5
No. 147 Puerperal Infections ...	0.16	
Nos. 142-146 } Other Maternal Causes 148-150 }	0.85	
Brownhills:—Nil in each case		

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

No cases of Dysentery, Puerperal Pyrexia, Acute Poliomyelitis, Typhoid or Paratyphoid were notified. No cases of Diphtheria were notified.

The total number of children immunised in the Brownhills district under 15 years of age is 4,102, a percentage of 76.2.

The number immunised under 5 years of age is 1,455.

Between 5 and 14 years of age the number is 2,647.



# INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease		Under 1 Year	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70 and over	Total
Measles ..	..	14	185	162	11	1	1	—	3	—	—	—	377
Whooping Cough ..	..	7	19	14	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	41
Scarlet Fever ..	..	—	6	13	11	1	1	2	—	1	—	—	35
Pneumonia ..	..	—	4	3	2	3	5	4	5	4	1	3	34
Erysipelas ..	..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	1	2	8
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..	..	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2

## TUBERCULOSIS.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
1 to 5 years	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 „	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—
10 to 15 „	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
15 to 20 „	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
20 to 30 „	5	4	—	—	2	2	1	—
30 to 40 „	2	2	—	1	—	1	—	1
40 to 50 „	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
50 to 60 „	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
60 to 70 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
70 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	10	10	1	6	4	4	2	2

Six cases notified during 1947 died during the year.

No cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were reported.

It gives me great pleasure to have this last opportunity of saying how helpful and considerate the Chief Sanitary Inspector has been. My regret is that my resignation terminates an association which was for me a very pleasant one. My thanks are also due to Mrs. Collingwood for so ably working out the statistics for me and for preparing the report for the printers.

My association with the Officials of other Departments and with the Council has been one that I will look back upon with a very pleasing remembrance.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT GEORGE BRADFORD,

Medical Officer of Health.

# BROWNHILLS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Health Department,  
Coombe House,  
Brownhills.

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR ON THE SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE URBAN DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR 1947.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Brownhills Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my second Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration of the Urban District.

The year 1947 witnessed the continuation of our troubles caused by colliery subsidence. This report will contain references to the effect of subsidence on housing, water supplies and sewerage in so far as they affect this Department. There is also a loss of agricultural land due to subsided land flooding and this, though threatening no danger to health, has an importance to the food supply problem of the country as a whole.

The work of the Department has progressed smoothly within the limitations imposed by the control of building licences and materials and the changes in staff. There is still plenty of work to be done and room for improvement so that, in recording satisfactory progress, it is in a relative sense only. The leeway of the war years and the demands of the present are too much to be met within such a short space of time.

Many tributes have been made to the sterling qualities and conscientious service of your Medical Officer of Health, Dr. R. G. Bradford, on his retirement after 37 years' service. I too feel sorry to lose his services, advice and willing co-operation. A feeling of frustration is caused in many Sanitary Departments by the interpretation of the phrase, contained in the Sanitary Officers' Regulations — "under the general direction of the Medical Officer of Health." No such feeling has existed with this authority, for your Medical Officer always gave the phrase its true meaning and, as a result, the Health Services have worked enthusiastically for the common good.

Yours obediently,

JOHN WILSON,  
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

## **PART I — STAFF.**

Mr. Harry Beeley, Additional Sanitary Inspector, left the service of the Council at the beginning of the year and took up a Colonial appointment.

Mr. Kenneth Williams, a former pupil in the Department, was re-employed as Temporary Clerk and Assistant for the short time he had to wait between demobilisation from H.M. Forces and the commencement of his full time training under the Government approved scheme for Student Sanitary Inspectors.

Both male Junior Clerks, Mr. E. Marklew and Mr. Geoffrey Crowe were called up for military service.

These staff changes, as you will appreciate, hampered the work of the Department. The lack of Housing accommodation does not help a Local Authority desirous of filling vacancies and the interpretation by the Ministry of Health of the Interim Award of Salaries for Sanitary Inspectors as a maximum, has placed this authority at a disadvantage with those authorities where the appointment is not subject to Ministerial approval.

Mr. V. Penn was appointed First Additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. E. J. Faulkner, Second Additional Sanitary Inspector, and Mrs. M. Collingwood as Temporary Clerk.

Students who are ex-Servicemen from the full-time post-war Training Course held in Birmingham, visited this authority over a period of six months for practical experience.

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## **PART II — WATER SUPPLY.**

The public supply for the district is obtained from the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.

Last year I wrote that samples had been taken and submitted to the County Laboratory as a routine measure and also as a check that the supply had not been affected by colliery subsidence. This systematic sampling eventually gave us the undesired results of high bacteriological counts in the supply to approximately 500 people in a part of the Norton Canes parish. The high count was, in a majority of cases, of a non-fæcal type, but had sufficient resemblance to a volcano threatening eruption that the Department was kept on the alert.

The following is a report on this contamination of the Public Water Supply to this small area of the Parish of Norton Canes:—

Public Water Supply: South Staffordshire Waterworks Co.,

Number of Houses affected: 125.

Estimated Population: 500.

Description: Norton Canes is a mining village in the North West of the Urban District of Brownhills. The Urban District as a whole is affected by colliery subsidence and in Norton Canes the damage to roads, sewers, water mains and property has been particularly severe.

The first unsatisfactory samples were obtained in October, 1947, and the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company were notified of the results. The Company immediately checked joints in the water main and carried out gross chlorination to sterilise the mains. As a result of this action the coli *aerogenes* (presumptive coli) count was reduced to nil for a period.

Since that date the trouble has recurred at intervals and on each occasion the Waterworks Company have carried out works which temporarily proved effective.

The County Medical Officer of Health has been kept informed of the situation and through his good offices conferences have been held with the Engineer in Chief to the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.

Action taken by the S.S.W.W. Co.:

- (1) A 120 yards length of main has been re-laid in steel pipes so as to give strength and flexibility to the area most heavily pulled by subsidence.
- (2) Joints have been opened up and examined for signs of pulling.
- (3) The "feed" supply to the area has been changed to one with a higher residual chlorine content.
- (4) A portable chlorinator has been used to give a dosage of 10 to 20 parts per million (varying according to rate of draw off) in order to sterilise mains giving a high bacteriological count.
- (5) The mains are flushed at frequent intervals and are maintained constantly under pressure so that water will be forced out of any leak and prevent polluting matter gaining access.



- (6) A new length of main has been laid (approximately 100 yards) across the third side of a triangle. Should a fracture occur in this area water will issue under pressure from both ends of the mains and so prevent pollution.

Action taken by the Local Authority :

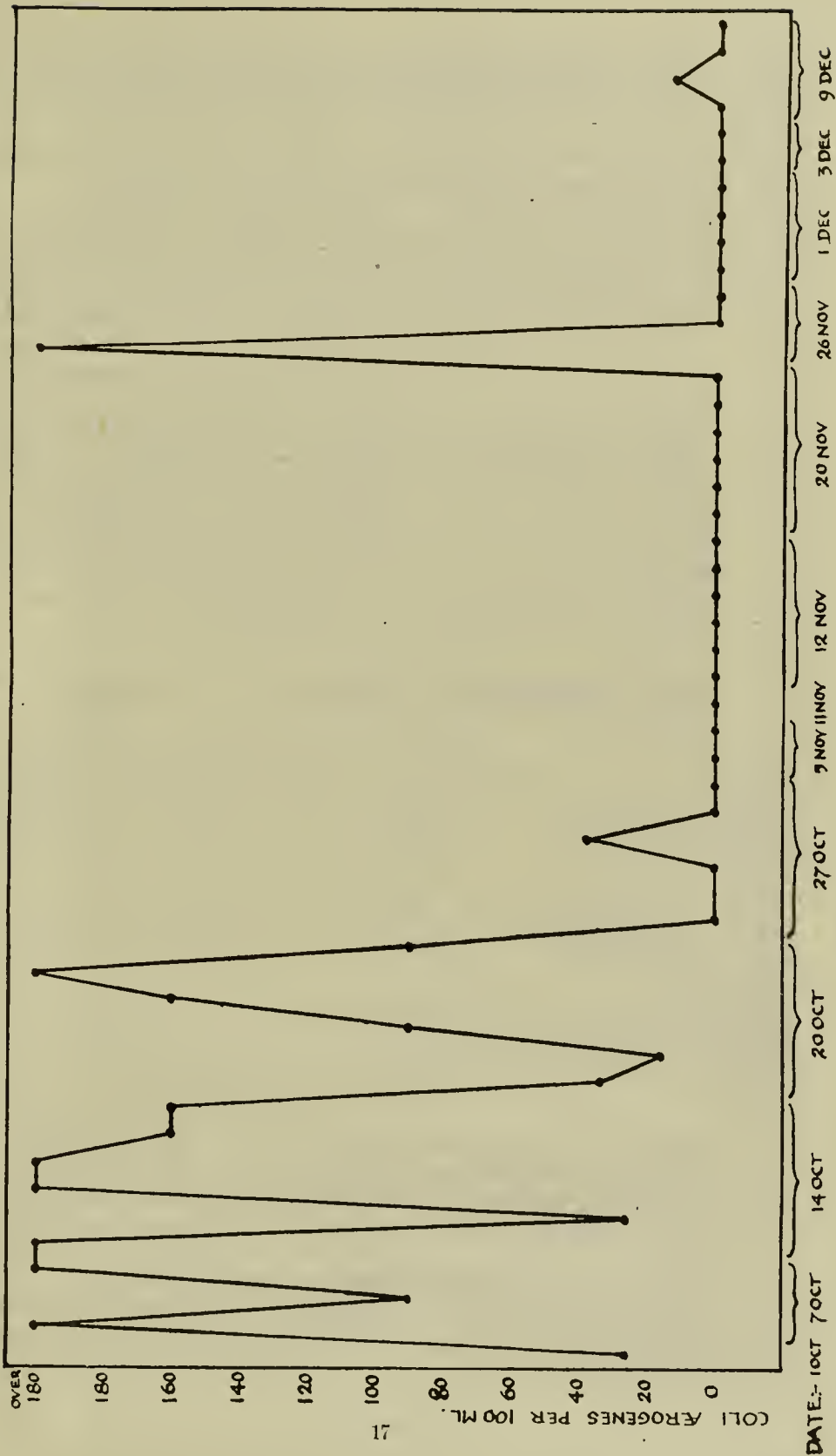
- (1) Residents were advised that they must boil all water used for domestic purposes. (This has now been relaxed due to the supply returning to normal).
- (2) The South Staffordshire Waterworks Company were notified of all unsatisfactory sample results.
- (3) This Department arranged to take samples on Mondays and Thursdays and the Waterworks Company on intermediate days.
- (4) The Council further suggested that the water mains in this particular area should be laid on the ground surface as the subsoil has a high sewage content due to fractures in the sewer (not easily determinable in gravity sewers) and because of the proximity of the sewers to the water mains. It was argued that surface water mains would be less liable to fractures and the danger of pollution would be averted. The Council considered that damage by frosts, and the danger of accidents from obstruction, could be avoided and that the decision to do this work should be taken irrespective of the date of delivery of new pipes. It was also pointed out that a high coli-aerogenes count was obtained in the area affected on the same days that nil counts were obtained on the line of feed and that this was sufficient evidence of contamination and potential danger when it is borne in mind that bacillus coli have a much higher death rate than coli-aerogenes.

Further Information :

- (1) The water mains have not been laid on the surface although the Council felt strongly on this point.
- (2) At a later date the Ministry of Health were informed of the potential danger and a conference was held to discuss the whole situation.
- (3) I am pleased to record that, up to the time of going to print, no disease has occurred which could be attributable to water-borne causes and that, temporarily at least, our worries are alleviated.



GRAPH SHEWING RESULTS OF WATER SAMPLES TAKEN FROM  
NORTON CANES DURING 1947



The following is a statement on the Water Supply to the Urban District submitted by R. A. Robertson, Esq., Engineer in Chief to the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company:—

- (1) The water supply to this area and to its several parts has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.
- (2) The supply to the Urban District of Brownhills is afforded in part from pumping stations outside the boundaries of the Authority, only one Station (Sandhills Pumping Station) lying within the Council's area. All the supplying stations are examined regularly, both bacteriologically and chemically and bacteriological samples are examined of all raw waters. During 1947, 24 samples were examined of the water from Sandhills Pumping Station and all were free from coliform bacteria. Monthly routine tap samples were taken from two points within the Boundary of the Authority, viz: the Waterman's House at Norton Canes and the Municipal Buildings, Brownhills. Twelve samples examined from Norton Canes were all satisfactory, as were also the 13 samples examined from the Municipal Buildings.

The average chemical results for 1947 of the two tap samples referred to were as follows:

	Norton Canes			Brownhills		
pH	...	7.6	parts per million	...	7.5	
Alkalinity (CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	...	78	" "	...	134	
Chlorides (Cl)	...	14.8	" "	...	25.3	
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	Trace	" "	...	Trace	
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	Trace	" "	...	Trace	
Oxidised Nitrogen	...	3.1	" "	...	7.8	
Oxygen Absorbed						
(3hr.at27°C)	...	.12	" "	...	.12	
Temporary Hardness	...	74	" "	...	118	
Permanent Hardness	...	43	" "	...	104	
Total Hardness	...	117	" "	...	222	
Iron (Fe)	...	.04	" "	...	.03	
Manganese (Mn)	...	Nil	" "	...	Nil	
Zinc (Zn)	...	Nil	" "	...	Nil	
Poisonous Metals						
(Cu and Pb)	...	Nil	" "	...	Nil	
Free Cl	...	.03	" "	...	.01	

During the last three months of the year considerable trouble was experienced in maintaining the quality of the water to a small area in Norton Canes where serious subsidence fractured the Company's distribution mains. The quality of water to this area was safeguarded by local chlorination which has given satisfactory results. The supply to this area is continuing to receive the closest attention and all the necessary precautions are being carefully observed.

- (3) The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency, and no lead was found in any of the samples examined.
- (4) Sterilisation of waters is carried out where possible at the Pumping Station as a precautionary measure. Special apparatus and staff are available in the event of contamination. Chlorination on site is practised following burst mains, laying of new mains, and emptying of reservoirs. The repaired and new mains, etc., are not brought back into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.

Water Supply Summary :—

Total Houses in the district	...	...	5,147
Houses with direct piped water supply	...	...	4,996
Houses with stand pipes	...	...	41
Number of Stand Pipes	...	...	8
Houses with communal taps	...	...	88
Number of communal taps	...	...	40
Houses with wells	...	...	22

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### PART III — SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

Number of Houses	...	...	...	...	5,147
Number of Houses served water closets	...	...	...	...	4,694
Number of Houses with privies	...	...	...	...	84
Number of Houses with pails	...	...	...	...	369
Number of Houses with bins	...	...	...	...	5,063

During the year 74 conversions were carried out; 108 of the pail closets are in Norton Canes.

The majority of the dilapidated types of privy middens have been abolished and, due to the encouragement given by the Council in making grants in special cases, many other houses have been provided with water closets in lieu of out-dated sanitary accommodation.

We are now at the era when the provision of water closets, where the sewer is available, is no longer a luxury but a recognised amenity. A fixed bath is also a necessity.

### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The village of Norton Canes was re-sewered in 1939. I very much regret that the new sewers did not extend to the end of every developed road in the area for at least another 30

houses could have been connected to the public sewer. Extensions at this juncture are now impracticable as the levels of the new sewers preclude such a course of action which would solve many drainage problems. The Sewage Works at Norton Canes continue to function satisfactorily. Brownhills, Walsall Wood and Brownhills West sewer to the works at Green Lane, Walsall Wood. The main sewer to the works is affected by colliery subsidence and the works themselves are in need of the thorough overhaul which the Council have undertaken.

Sheffield is sewered to Goscote Joint Board Sewage Works.

### REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The Council have five refuse tips. To none of them can the term "controlled" be applied and, as a result, rats are encouraged to find a home in the tips, for the larder is well stocked. Fly breeding, crickets and unsightliness must also be taken into account when listing the unsatisfactory state of affairs.

The tips at Coppice Road, Brownhills, and Hednesford Road, Norton Canes, are near to houses and should be surface dressed with soil at the earliest opportunity, whilst a big improvement is called for at each location before a Health Officer could apply the term satisfactory.

### NOTICES SERVED.

Informal Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	653
Informal Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	327

### STATUTORY NOTICES.

	Section.	Served.	Complied with.
Section 9.	Housing Act/1936	6	—
Section 30.	Water Act/1945	1	—
Section 39.	Public Health Act/1936	8	4
Section 44.	" " "	5	8
Section 45.	" " "	9	4
Section 75.	" " "	111	68
Section 93.	" " "	52	28

Other Statutory Notices not sub-divided.

	Served.	Complied with.
January	23	14
February	—	1
March	17	3
April	68	5
May	5	7
June	19	18
Totals	132	48

## SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR.

Total Premises visited	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,552
Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	...	376
Houses inspected—General Survey	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,105
—Housing Act, Section 9	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
—Housing Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
—Housing Applications	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
—Requisitioning	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
—Demolitions	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
—Verminous	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
—Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
—Sanitary Survey	...	...	...	...	...	...	803
—Dangerous Houses and Structures	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	...	112
Ashplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	575
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	659
Water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	347
Privy middens	...	...	...	...	...	...	115
Pails	...	...	...	...	...	...	113
Other types—cupplers, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Conversions	...	...	...	...	...	...	334
Drains—choked or defective	...	...	...	...	...	...	205
—new and tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	149
Sewerage	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Water supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Other Sanitary defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	301
Farms and Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Ice Cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Fish fryers	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Food preparing premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pigsties	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Food inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Shops Act inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Disinfections and disinfestations	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Infectious disease enquiries	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	220
Cinemas	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Petroleum Spirit storage	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Refuse tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Rodent control	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Samples—Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
—Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
—Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
—Water, bacteriological	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
—Water, chemical	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
—Sewage	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
—River pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	3



## COURT PROCEEDINGS.

Act and Sections.	Proceedings authorised by Council.	Notice complied with before proceedings.	Proceedings instituted.
Section 44 1(b) P.H.A./36.	3	3	—
Section 58. P.H.A./36. ...	11	4	7
Section 75. P.H.A./36 ...	13	13	—
Sections 93 4. P.H.A./36.	12	10	1
Section 269. P.H.A./36. ...	3	2	1
Section 259. P.H.A./36. ...	3	1	2

NOTES :—

### Section 58, Public Health Act, 1936.

Six Court orders were obtained in respect of property rendered dangerous by colliery subsidence. Demolition orders were made and the Council re-housed the tenants.

One Court order was in respect of a dangerous wash-house structure and an order to repair was made by the Court. This has now been complied with.

### Section 93/4, Public Health Act, 1936.

Court action was taken in one case and a nuisance order was made.

### Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936.

Complaint was made in respect of an owner allowing caravans to be stationed on that land in contravention of Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The initial hearing was adjourned to allow the owner to have the caravan removed.

### Section 259, Public Health Act, 1936.

A nuisance order was sought to compel two riparian owners to cleanse a brook course. No order was made. (The Council have the work in hand).

## NON-COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY NOTICES.

Act and Sections.	Work authorised in default.	Notice complied with by Owner.	By Local Authority.
Section 44 1(b) P.H.A./36.	16	9	5
Section 39. P.H.A./36. ...	2	1	1
Section 138. P.H.A./36 (as amended by Water Act, 1945).	1	—	1

## HOUSING.

The Council have 2,000 applicants for Council Houses on their books, but it is certain that in any area a much smaller number of houses than the number shown as applicants would solve the housing problem. The time has come when a com-

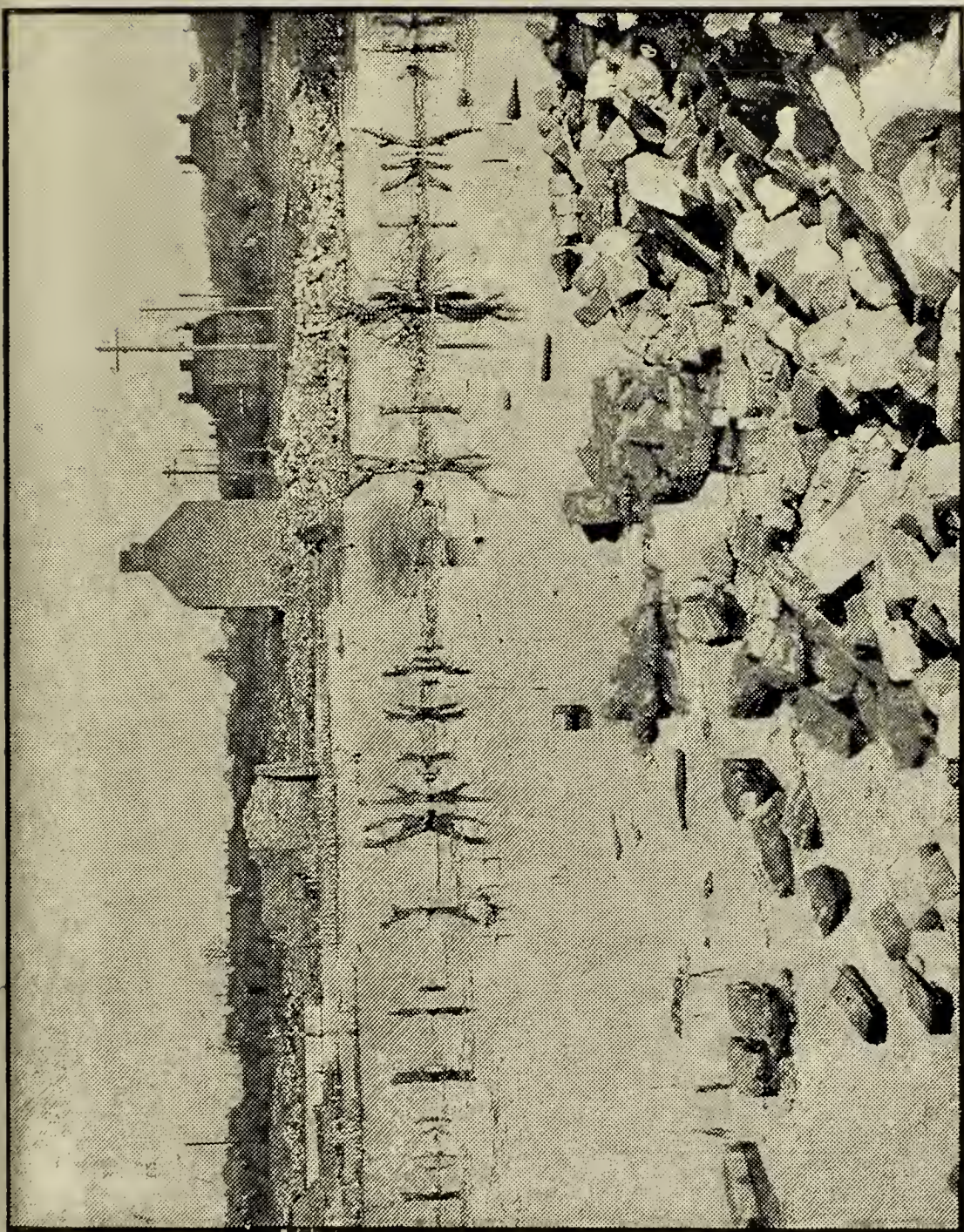


## Results of Colliery Subsidence.













plete survey of the area should be undertaken so that a true figure can be arrived at. If the survey was necessary in rural areas then there are similar reasons why a survey is necessary in urban areas.

I do not wish to enter into a lengthy discussion on the methods of allocating new houses on a Ward basis, but I would like to stress the needs of Norton Canes parish where many houses are not only substandard but are damaged by colliery subsidence. The projected construction of 93 prefabs in this ward will, no doubt, alleviate the problem a little, although lettings are limited to miners.

It is time a proportion of new houses were officially allocated to the Health Committee so that people living in houses which are unfit and not repairable at reasonable expense can be given some little hope. Unfit houses are the problem of the whole district and yet the present method of equal allocation between the wards penalises the ward with the greatest problem.

Total Houses in the District	...	...	...	5,147
Number of Council Houses (traditional)				
at 31.12.47	...	...	...	1,306
Number of Prefabs	...	...	...	50

### COUNCIL HOUSES.

Mr. C. R. Closs, F.I.Hsg., Housing Manager, has supplied the following information in respect of Council Houses:—  
 Prior to late war:—

Act under which constructed.	Bedrooms			Bungalows			Totals
	Two	Three	Four				
1919	—	250	—	...	—	...	250
1923	—	154	—	...	—	...	154
1924	92	158	—	...	—	...	250
1925	102	344	30	...	6	...	482
1930	44	56	30	...	—	...	130
Totals	238	962	60		6		1,266

Post war:—

1946							
Prefabs	50	—	—	...	—	...	50
Traditional	—	1	—	...	—	...	1
1947							
Traditional	4	36	—	...	—	...	40
Totals	54	37	—		—		91

## **PROCEDURE UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS.**

### **Section 11, Housing Act, 1936.**

Nos. 24, 26, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40 and 56, Bridge Street, Clayhanger, were demolished as a result of action taken during 1946. The tenants were re-housed by the Council.

### **Section 9, Housing Act, 1936.**

The repair of Nos. 79, 81, 83 and 85, High Street, Brownhills, was completed and costs are being recovered.

Notices were served in respect of two other houses. In one case the owner carried out the work and in the other, No. 12, Mill Road, Shelfield, the Local Authority carried out the work.

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## **PART IV — FOOD HYGIENE.**

The slaughter of animals for human consumption in this area takes place at the Walsall Public Abattoir. Occasionally my staff are called upon to inspect cottagers' pigs and give advice as to the condition.

Meat distribution is not carried out under the most hygienic conditions. The wearing of washable headgear and overalls should be compulsory. There is a tendency towards the use of more suitable vans, but if meat distribution is to continue in its present form, then all vehicles should be specially constructed for the purpose.

Butchers' shops are inspected and in several cases improvements have been made as a result of informal advice.

### **Slaughterhouses:—**

The fourteen private slaughterhouses in the district had their licences renewed.

Last year I remarked that Sanitary Inspectors and Butchers would welcome some outline of the Government's future policy in respect of private slaughterhouses. We still await such an announcement for premises which could be utilised for other purposes are deteriorating by non-usage. Even the most die-hard supporter of private slaughterhouses will agree that a return to 1939 organisation is both undesirable and remote.

Licences to slaughter animals have been renewed as required.



The following foodstuffs have been surrendered as unfit for human consumption:—

Grapes ... ..	16 lbs.
Yeast Extender ... ..	56 lbs.
1 Pig and 1 pig's head ... ..	75 lbs.
31 crates Oranges ... ..	—
101 tins Milk ... ..	87 lbs. 11 ozs.
26 tins Steak ... ..	26 lbs.
10 tins Peas ... ..	10 lbs.
15 tins Beans ... ..	14½ lbs.
5 tins Meat and Vegetables ... ..	5 lbs.
2 tins Carrots ... ..	2 lbs. 7 ozs.
5 tins Pilchards ... ..	4 lbs. 11 ozs.
7 tins Soup ... ..	5½ lbs.
1 tin Syrup ... ..	2 lbs.
2 tins Sardines ... ..	0 lbs. 6½ ozs.
1 tin Salmon ... ..	0 lbs. 15 ozs.
Jam ... ..	7 lbs.
4 tins Luncheon Meat ... ..	3 lbs.
2 tins Ox Tongue ... ..	12 lbs.
10 tins Tomatoes ... ..	22½ lbs.
238 Dessert Powders ... ..	51 lbs. 10 ozs.
22½ lbs. Bacon ... ..	22½ lbs.
Butter ... ..	23¾ lbs.
Beef Sausages ... ..	6 lbs.
Beef Meat ... ..	6 lbs.
Herrings ... ..	70 lbs.
2 tins Chopped Ham ... ..	1½ lbs.

Where appropriate, unsound food has been disposed of as salvage, as recommended by the Ministry of Food.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

### (a) Ice Cream Premises:

Four premises are registered for the manufacture and sale of Ice Cream. Three of these manufacturers use the "Hot" mix and one a "Cold" mix. One of the premises is entirely new, specially constructed for ice cream manufacture, and the others are buildings which have been adapted for the purpose.

Three shops have been registered for the sale (only) of Ice Cream, and two of these confine their sales to repacked ices.

One applicant for registration of premises for sale appeared before the Health Committee to show cause why registration should not be refused. Registration was refused as it was considered that the premises were unsuitable.

### (b) Manufacture of Preserved Food, etc.

Seven premises used in connection with Butchers' shops are registered for the manufacture of preserved food, etc.

### (c) Fish Fryers.

Twenty-four premises are registered for the sale of fried fish. Regular inspections have been made at these premises.

Some fish fryers wrap the cooked products in newspaper without the protection of grease-proof paper. This may be due to the paper shortage, but it is, to say the least, an unsavoury habit which I would like to see rectified.

The Chief Inspector for Weights and Measures for the Staffordshire County Council has supplied the following information in respect of samples taken by his Department:—

**Details of Samples Taken in Brownhills Urban District  
during the Year ended 31st March 1948.**

Article	Genuine	Reported against.
Milk ... ..	8	
Pasteurised Milk ... ..	7	
Sterilised Milk ... ..	4	
Heat treated Milk ... ..	2	
Tuberculin tested Milk ... ..	2	
Butter ... ..	2	
Cooking Fat ... ..	2	
Beef Broth ... ..	1	
Glycerine Lemon and Honey	1	
Barley Kernels ... ..	1	
S.R. Flour ... ..	1	
Semolina ... ..	1	
Ground Nutmeg ... ..	1	
Yankee Relish ... ..	1	
Browning ... ..	1	
Margarine ... ..	1	
Demarara Sugar ... ..	1	
Jelly Crystals, Raspberry ...	1	No statement of ingredients on label.
Jelly Crystals, Orange ...	1	Ditto.
Mixed Pickles ... ..	1	Ditto.
Barley Flakes ... ..	1	
Cake Mixture ... ..	1	1 § Contained dead mites
Bi-carbonate of Soda ... ..	1	
Syrup of Figs ... ..	1	
Beef Sausages ... ..	1	
§ Taken up with manufacturers.		
Old stock, withdrawn from sale.		

**PRODUCERS AND PURVEYORS OF MILK**

There are 25 producers and 28 retailers within the district. One producer has attained Accredited standard during the year and I am sure this will be the first of many, as several farmers have agreed to reconstruct their premises. The producer of Accredited milk has a new cowshed and dairy which have evoked considerable interest amongst his neighbours. Another farmer has had his cowshed modernised and two others are beyond the planning stage.

I hope that the Government's interest in agriculture will be reflected in an all-round improvement in farm buildings.

## **MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS**

A new cowshed and dairy has been constructed at one farm and a licence to produce Accredited milk has been issued by the County Council. The improvements in hand and projected at other farms indicates that more premises will attain this standard in the near future.

The following supplementary licences for the sale of designated milks have been issued: —

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	3
Pasteurised	...	...	...	5

## **LICENSED PREMISES.**

Inspections have been carried out at the 36 public houses within the area. Improvements to sanitary accommodation and washing accommodation for glasses have been effected at several of these premises as a result of the survey carried out in 1946. Club premises have also been inspected.

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

Visits have been made to cases of infectious disease and disinfections have been carried out as required.

## **RODENT CONTROL.**

A full-time Rodent Operative is employed to discharge the delegated powers of rodent control.

The Council have taken advantage of schemes formulated by the Ministry of Food designed to assist local authorities. Many people seem to accept what appears to be the odd rat as inevitable and do not take advantage of the service.

Sewers, Refuse Tips, Sewage Works and other Council property have been treated at regular intervals and the results have been satisfactory.

## **FACTORIES ACT, 1937.**

Routine inspections have been made at the factories in this area. The new factories erected during the year have called for frequent visits, as sanitary accommodation was, in some cases, not constructed in accordance with the plans submitted.

The major industry is coal mining and the new factories in the area will deter any drift from the mines as the female labour can find employment locally. More such factories will be welcome.

Two certificates as to means of escape in case of fire have been granted under Section 34 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

**1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).**

Premises. (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register. (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections. (4)	Written Notices. (5)	Occupiers prosecuted. (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	13	13	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	2	31	52	2	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority + (excluding out-workers' premises) ... ..	3	—	—	—	—	3
<b>Total</b> ... ..		44	65	2	—	

## 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND. (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

Particulars. (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found. (3)	Remedied. (4)	To H.M. Inspector. (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector. (6)		
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2.)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.) (a) Insufficient	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	2	2	—	1	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other Offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	1	1	—	1	—	12
Total ...	60	3	3	—	2	—	60



## **AMBULANCE SERVICE.**

The Council provide a 24 hours' Ambulance service within the Urban District. By the willing co-operation of the St. John Ambulance Brigade their ambulance has been utilised as a "stand-by" for the conveyance of emergency cases and when the Council's ambulance has been undergoing repairs.

A reciprocal agreement with adjoining authorities has been most useful and this neighbourly mutual assistance has much to commend it.

## **TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.**

The open Common land still attracts the nomadic tribes to spend a few nights in the district. The sites used are frequently left in an untidy state in spite of promises to keep the site clean. The culprits often vanish on their mystic journeys before the appropriate action can be taken.

Only two caravans are licensed to be stationed at specified locations, but 112 visits have been made to caravans during the year.

## **HOME AND DOMESTIC HELP.**

The Council have acted as agents for the County Council and inaugurated a Home and Domestic Help Service. The rate of pay is 2s. per hour as this is the pay "Helps" can obtain in a near-by residential area.

Contrary to the experience of many other small authorities I am able to report that the service has got into its stride right from the start. A part-time Organiser could easily mould this nucleus into an effective social service.

## **MORTUARY.**

The Council have a well-equipped Mortuary which is convenient for the police and the doctors in the area.



